

[22 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether this would require Rs. 100 crores;

(c) whether the State Government has set about 3000 acres of land available for this purpose;

(d) if so, whether State Government has decided to invite private sector to help in this project;

(e) if so, whether Central Government have also agreed to provide funds for this project; and

(f) if so, the amount agreed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) State Government of Andhra Pradesh have identified a circuit of Hyderabad, Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar.

(b) The State Government has not worked out the cost of the project.

(c) The State Government has not identified the land.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Development of tourist centres/places is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. However, Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with the State Government/UT Administration concerned every year. No such project has been prioritised for the current financial year for Central financial assistance.

(f) Does not arise.

Discovery of metallic articles, coins etc. in Geesukonda village in A.P.

80. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that metallic articles, terracotta figurines, coins etc. of much archaeological importance belonging to the period

from 6th millennium B.C. to 14th century A.D. have come to light in "Geesukonda" village near Warangal in Andhra Pradesh and that they have great historical significance;

(b) if so, whether any special measures have been taken by Government to preserve the great heritage; and

(c) if not, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh, has conducted excavation at Geesukonda and reported to have found a coin of the Satavahana period, a crystal bead, animal and human figurines made of clay, potsherds of red ware polished and red ware and iron objects belonging to the 1st-2nd century A.D. In addition, Iron Age burials datable to 6th century B.C. and a Siva temple datable to the 12th-13th century A.D. also exist in the locality.

(b) and (c) The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh, has initiated measures to declare the site as a protected monument as per the Andhra Pradesh Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.

Excavation of Archaeological site in Eastern States

81. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have excavated any archaeological site in Eastern States during the last three years;

(b) whether any of those sites is in Orissa;